

**Rhode Island State Planning Council
Approved Minutes of May 10, 2012 Meeting**

Thursday, May 10, 2012
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Mr. Richard Licht, Chair	Director, RI DOA
Ms. Kelly Mahoney, Vice Chair	Office of Governor Lincoln Chafee
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	RI LOCAT, President's Designee
Ms. Janet Coit	Director, RI DEM
Ms. Lea Anthony Hitchen	Representing Mr. William Sequino, Public Member
Mr. Michael Lewis	Director, RI DOT
Mr. Wayne Hannon	Representing Mr. Thomas Mullaney, RI DOA, Budget Office
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RI LOCAT, Government Official Representative
Ms. Bonnie Nickerson	Providence Department of Planning & Development
Ms. Anna Novais	Representing Mr. Michael Fine, Director, RI DOH
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Mr. Bill Parsons	Representing Mr. Keith Stokes, Executive Director, RIEDC
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Dan Beardsley, Executive Director, RI LOCAT
Mr. Henry Sherlock	Representing Mr. Stephen Cardi, Cardi Corporation
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate

Members Absent

Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

Guests

Ms. Alicia Good	Assistant Director of Water Resources, RI DEM
Mr. Michael Hogan	RI House Policy Office
Mr. Peter Osborn	Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Ms. Allison Rogers	Policy Director, RI DOA
Ms. Elizabeth Scott	Deputy Chief, Surface Water Protection, RI DEM
Mr. Bob Shawver	Associate Chief Engineer, RI DOT

Staff – Division of Planning

Mr. Robert Griffith	Chief, Strategic Planning
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, II	Chief, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso	Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Mr. Licht called the meeting to order on May 10, 2012 at 9:06 a.m. He then took a moment to introduce new members, Ms. Janet Coit, Mr. Michael Lewis, Ms. Anna Novais who represented Mr. Michael Fine , Mr. Bill Parsons who represented Mr. Keith Stokes, Ms. Kelly Mahoney, and Ms. Bonnie Nickerson.

2. Approval of the March 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes – *for vote*

Mr. Lewis moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murray. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were none.

4. Overview of the RI Municipal Stormwater Program – *for discussion*

Ms. Alicia Good delivered an informational PowerPoint presentation on Managing Stormwater in the Ocean State (see attachment 1). Highlights of those items in which the State Planning Council engaged in discussion are as follows:

Ms. Coit discussed a potential bond referendum to assist municipalities in addressing stormwater infrastructure needs. She said that there's a possibility that the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) could help cities and towns to address their needs. Mr. Licht questioned the funds that NBC spent on storm water design. In response, Ms. Coit said NBC completed two major projects to control sewer and stormwater overflow into the bay. The first phase of the project addressed 40% of the raw sewage overflow into the bay which occurs whenever we get substantial rainfalls. Ms. Scott added that the NBC project will not address all concerns. She gave Roger Williams Park's water conditions as an example and explained that Mashapaug Pond's overflow drainage is connected to the Park.

Mr. Trevor said that this is a timely subject to discuss as a Clean Water Finance Agency bond is being proposed for the 2012 ballot. He then asked for clarity on how the proceeds from that bond would be spent. Ms. Coit responded by noting that the 2012 bond referendum includes \$12.0 million for sewer/stormwater projects fund and \$8.0 million for drinking water projects.

Ms. Mahoney asked if stimulus funding was available to address these issues. In response, Ms. Boyle said funding was available; however, the issue of how the funds would be paid back was still a barrier given the lack of political appetite for additional residential taxes.

Mr. Schaefer referred to the memo that was distributed last November from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and asked Ms. Coit if she interpreted the memo as EPA saying to “back off”. Ms. Coit said she did not, but that the memo was rather encouraging individuals to prioritize needs and investments while working to integrate the planning process for resolving sewer and stormwater issues. Next, Mr. Schaefer asked if the real issue was the geese and cow feces contaminating the water. Ms. Coit indicated that these issues can be part of the larger problem.

Mr. Murray said that recent communications with DEM have been welcoming in terms of understanding the complexities that contribute to the issue.

Mr. Licht asked if wastewater and stormwater are separate and distinct problems. Ms. Coit said yes and Mr. Flynn noted that many municipalities have separate stormwater and waste water systems. Mr. Lewis added that DOT is responsible for inspection and maintenance on 25,000 catch basins and funding is an issue.

Ms. Coit said that DEM has met with the development community on new projects. Discussions on how to manage stormwater more efficiently is a focus; retrofitting and dealing with the old problems are complex. Mr. Rhodes asked if all new construction projects are required to adhere to the new stormwater regulations. Ms. Coit said that if a project is greater than one acre, they are required to adhere to the regulations. Mr. Rhodes asked if there are opportunities for municipalities to assist with the projects that are below one acre. Ms. Coit said that they could, but cost wise it wouldn't be a wise choice. Mr. Licht reiterated Ms. Coit's comment and said retrofitting existing development seems to be the largest concern.

As there were no further comments, Mr. Licht thanked the DEM team for their presentation and then moved on to the next item on the agenda.

5. **CEDS Annual Report** – *for discussion*

Mr. Licht introduced Mr. Griffith who reviewed the proposed CEDS Annual report as contained in the mailing and discussed in the agenda supplement. Highlights of those items in which the State Planning Council engaged in discussion are as follows:

Mr. Trevor asked if the Warren Incubator deficiency is something that can be worked through. Mr. Griffith said yes and then explained that the application process has changed. All applications are sent to Washington, DC where EDA staff review the applications and utilize a check list; which is where most of the deficiencies are occurring.

As there were no further questions, Mr. Griffith welcomed the Council to contact him for any further questions or comments.

6. **Unified Work Program for Transportation Planning, Proposed FY 2013 Work Tasks** – *for discussion*

Mr. Licht introduced Mr. Rhodes who presented the proposed FY 2013 work tasks as distributed with the Council packets. Highlights of those items in which the State Planning Council engaged in discussion are as follows:

Mr. Licht asked how Statewide Planning interacts with RIPTA in terms of funding. In response, Mr. Rhodes said that the Transportation Planning Team interacts on a regular basis with RIPTA. Next month, the Work Program will contain RIPTA and DOT components. Mr. Flynn also added that he and Mr. Lewis are both on RIPTA's Strategic Planning Committee.

Ms. Coit asked if there have been any discussions with DOT & FHWA to address drainage issues on state roadways. Mr. Rhodes said that he was not aware of such discussions. Mr. Lewis said he believes that they had conversations and then referred the question to Mr. Shawver who then agreed that conversations have taken place internally without Statewide Planning.

There being no further questions, Mr. Licht moved on to the next item on the agenda.

7. **Associate Director's Report**

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director's report:

- Power of Place Summit;
- HUD Sustainable Communities status;
- Update on TIP and Water 2030 Public Hearing;
- Wickford Junction opening;
- Status of the Division's efforts to develop Wind Siting Guidelines.

8. **Other Business**

There was none.

9. **Adjourn**

Ms. Coit moved to adjourn. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:44 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Flynn
Secretary

Attachment 1